non-agricultural market access negotiations at the WTO before finalising their stand; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) For the ongoing non-agricultural market access negotiations wide consultation with the Indian industry has been initiated. The consultations have been held with the apex industry associations like CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM and other trade/industry bodies. Workshops, round tables and seminars have been organized by some of these bodies. In addition Export promotion and development bodies like Export Promotion Councils, MPEDA, Council for Leather Export are also being consulted. Presentations to trade bodies through other administrative wings of the government like Office of the Textiles Commissioner and Development Commissioner (SSI), have been held.

Indian campaign against MAI

1497. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has stepped up its campaign against the Multilateral Agreements on Investments (MAI) as proposed by the rich nations at Singapore;

(b) whether India has further consistently opposed expansion of WTO agenda to include new issues which are being brought in by the rich countries adversely affecting poor nations; and

(c) if so, Government's views thereon and the status of the discussions with the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has consistently expressed its concerns regarding the expansion of the WTO agenda to include new issues.

India has voiced concerns about the inclusion of a multilateral framework on investment at the WTO. The Doha Ministerial Declaration

stated that negotiations on a multilateral framework on investment can take place after the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun only on the basis of a decision to be taken, by explicit consensus, at that Conference on modalities of negotiations.

Based on the Doha Ministerial declaration, a clarificatory process is underway at the WTO in the Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment and India has been participating in this process actively.

At present, some countries have suggested discussions on simple modalities on this issue for negotiations. India has expressed its concerns about the launch of negotiations based on simple modalities which do not give an idea of the nature and direction of obligations under a proposed agreement.

Financial AID to coffee growers

1498. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem faced by coffee growers for the last three years;

(b) the measures taken to prevent plight of the Coffee Industry and growers in Karnataka; and

(c) whether he has given any promise to the growers during his visit to Karnataka in the month of September, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Concerned with the problems being faced by the Indian coffee growers due to the ongoing crisis caused by low prices, the Government of India has in the recent past taken a series of steps for the benefit of coffee sector which includes re-phasement of loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks, providing 5% interest relief to small growers and 3% interest relief to large coffee growers on their working capital loans taken from financial institutions, providing financial incentives for export of coffee and innovative marketing strategies in international as well as